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THE BAPTIST

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Justice addresses Carey Convocation

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia, speaking on April 7 at the Spring Convocation on William Carey College's Hattiesburg campus, said the U.S. Constitution is a document to be respected and interpreted as written by the nation's Founding Fathers — and not according to the whims of an ever-shifting modern culture.

"We have an enduring Constitution, not a living one," he pointed out to the assembly. "The Constitution says what it says; it doesn't say what it doesn't say."

Scalia, often described by observers as one of the court's most conservative members, said he believes he has been "fairly centrist" during his 18 years on the high court but has been distressed by some of his fellow justices' decisions in religion cases that come before them.

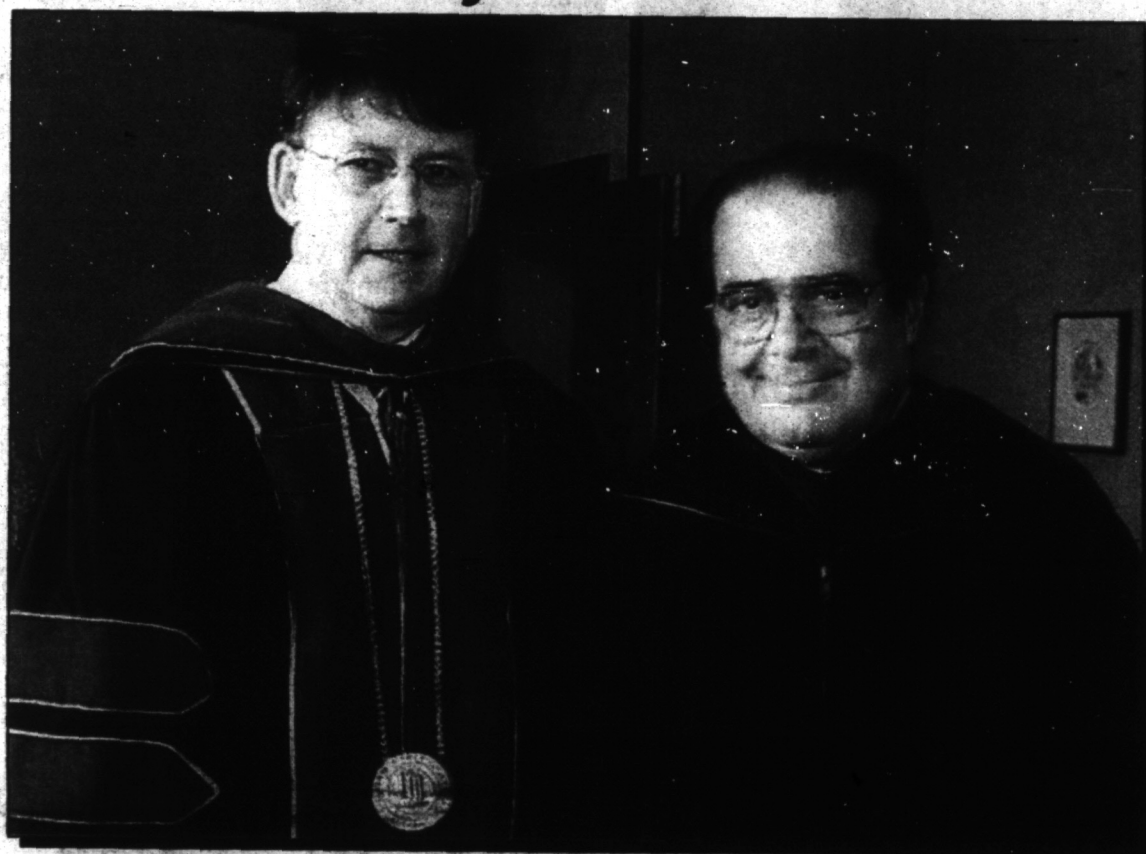
Scalia, a devout Roman Catholic, recalled his student days in the 1940s at Public School 13 in New York City, when policy allowed pupils like him to be dismissed from school early each day to receive religious instruction at nearby churches. He lamented how "the principles of law have departed from our traditions," and how the Supreme Court has moved over the years from a stance of strict government neutrality in religion matters toward today's aggressive pursuit of "freedom from religion."

He pointed out that most such cases before the court are now decided on "judicially-crafted formulaic abstractions," and said, "When the abstract comes up against (constitutional) tradition, the abstract should yield." He added that some decisions handed down by the court in religion cases are little more than "First Amendment showboating."

The Convocation was the second appearance by Scalia at William Carey College, which is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program. Scalia is responsible for handling appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court from the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which is composed of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, and he makes a number of speeches each year around the area.

In addition to the college's staff, faculty, and students, Scalia was greeted at the Convocation by a number of prominent jurists from across the state, including:

- Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals: Charles Pickering.
- U.S. District Court for South Mississippi: Louis Guirola Jr., Dan M. Russell Jr., and David Bramlette III.
- Mississippi Supreme Court: Kay B. Cobb, Jess Dickinson, James W. Smith Jr., George Carlson Jr., and Dan Lee (retired).



SCALIA AT WCC — William Carey College (WCC) President Larry Kennedy (left) greets U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia after Scalia's April 7 speech at the Spring Convocation on the school's Hattiesburg campus. Scalia's appearance marks the second time the Justice has visited the school, which is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Scalia's visit to Hattiesburg was not without a minor controversy. He was criticized by national news media groups because reporters' digital recorders were seized and erased by U.S. Marshals accompanying Scalia to a separate appearance at Hattiesburg's Presbyterian Christian School.

Prior to Scalia's Carey speech, school President Larry Kennedy requested that recording devices be turned off. After his Carey speech, Scalia asked a local television news crew to leave and declined to allow newspaper photographers to take photographs during a reception. The photograph prohibition was relaxed, however, when reception attendees began to snap their own photos of Scalia.

Scalia, whose relationship with the news media has been strained in the past, issued an apology on April 12 to the news media personnel involved in the flap, and said the Marshals were not acting on orders from him when they erased reporters' recordings.

On a separate note, the college's new ceremonial Mace was carried for the first time by the grand marshal who led the academic procession into the Convocation. A Mace is a traditional insignia of institutions of higher learning that dates to antiquity.

The Carey Mace is 55 inches tall and formed mostly from Arkansas Black Walnut wood. The top ellipse holds the official college medallion. The six-inch rectangle block between the ellipse and

the staff is made from long leaf yellow heart pine salvaged from the original columns of Tatum Court, which was constructed on the Carey campus in 1914. The wood for those original columns came from timber cleared during the Tatum Court construction.

Wood carvings and labels depict the life of the college's namesake, missionary William Carey, on four sides. The carved icons on the Mace include:

- a world globe with India in prominent relief, to commemorate Carey as a missionary to that country.
- an open book, to commemorate Carey as a linguist.
- a pair of 18th-century shoes, to commemorate Carey as a cobbler.
- a vine, to commemorate Carey as a botanist.

Ben Morgan, a member of First Church, Laurel, turned and finished the Mace and constructed its stand. The Mace was designed and the icons carved by Thomas Stewart of Laurel, a Methodist who has been a woodcarver for 75 years.

The Mace, which will be housed in the president's office, was commissioned and presented to the college as a gift from Tommy King, a Carey alumnus, longtime faculty member, and dean.

William Carey College is one of three institutions of higher learning affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The others are Mississippi College in Clinton and Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain.



NEW SCHOOL SYMBOL — Officials of William Carey College in Hattiesburg unveiled the Baptist-affiliated school's new Mace on April 7 during Spring Convocation. The new school symbol is 55 inches tall and will be carried by the faculty marshal in all future academic processions. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

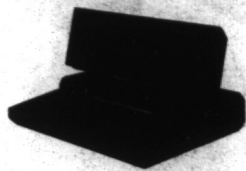
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Saving the cats

Twenty-year-old Heather Sargent of Bangor, Maine, died in early 2003 from multiple stab wounds, allegedly inflicted by her violent husband who is in police custody awaiting trial. She was eight months pregnant, and her baby died along with her. Police also found that the family's cats had been similarly attacked and killed.

Here's the interesting part: Whoever killed Heather Sargent's cats can be arrested and severely punished. Whoever killed her baby gets off scot-free.

That's because only one murder was recognized by state and federal law at the time of the killings. The youngest victim — Heather Sargent's baby — was not really a human in the eyes of the law and, therefore, Roscoe Sargent faces only one count of murder.

The Congress took care of that terrible injustice, repeated many thousands of times every year in the U.S., when both the House of Representatives and Senate passed the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. President Bush promptly signed the bill into law on April 1. The death of an unborn child anywhere in the U.S. during the commission of a violent felony can now be prosecuted as a crime in and of itself, offering considerably more protection to battered women than they previously enjoyed.

With the powerful hand of the federal government now protecting innocent women from such assault, abuse, and death, the liberal groups that claim to represent American women are applauding the new law, right?

Wrong. The National Organization for Women (NOW) condemned the law because, "Giving a fetus — even an embryo the same rights as the pregnant woman will undermine the right to abortion as guaranteed under *Roe v. Wade*," the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion nationwide.

Is this the same organization that in September and October of 2000 issued urgent calls for reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, claiming that not doing so was "putting women's lives on the line." Is this the same organization that called upon its members in late 2003 to pass the Security and Financial Empowerment Act to further protect women from abuse? The answer is yes.

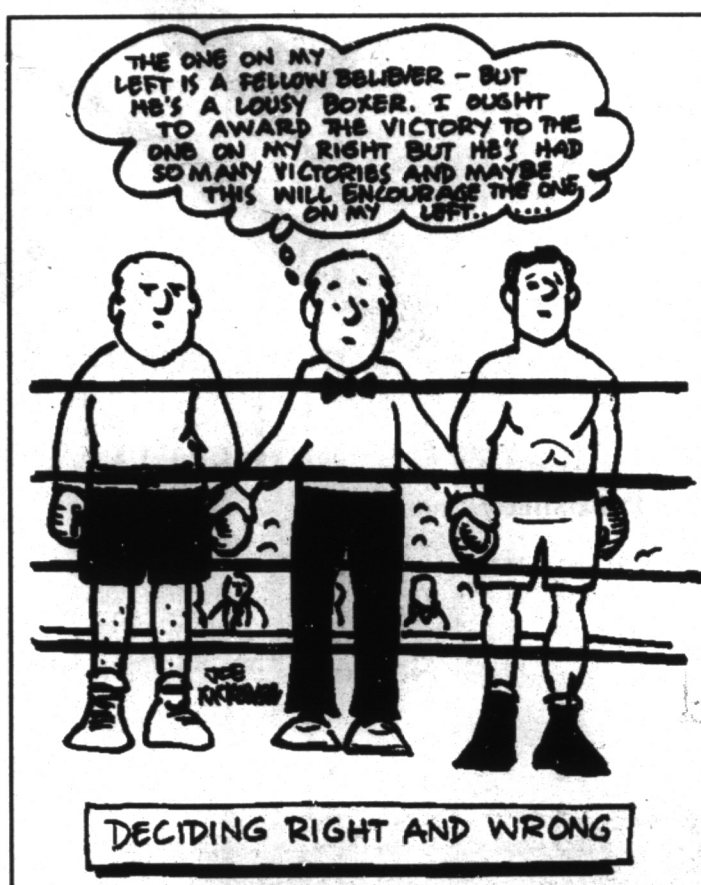
"We have made violence against women a crime, now let's make it a shame," states a NOW release after the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act was approved. "We still need to press for stiffer laws."

Unless the victim of violence is pregnant, that is. As far as NOW is concerned, pregnant women are second-class citizens unworthy of extended protection from assault and homicide. For all their big talk about helping women, NOW and other groups of their ilk just can't walk the walk.

"Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of human rights and fundamental freedoms," states a widely-distributed brochure from Planned Parenthood — but again, being pregnant during an assault seems to disqualify women from such protection.

"Planned Parenthood Federation of America today denounced President Bush's signing of S. 1019, the so-called Unborn Victims of Violence Act" states an April 1 press release from that organization — the largest provider of abortion in America.

So, which is it? Are groups such as NOW and Planned Parenthood in favor of protecting women from violence, or aren't they? The answer is they are, but apparently only



under the conditions they approve. If a woman is pregnant, she doesn't qualify.

Unfortunately, the debate over abortion in America is poisoned with such dishonesty and double talk. One thing's for certain, though — when a culture believes that saving the lives of cats is more important than saving the lives of mothers and unborn children, there's something terribly wrong with that culture.

How does one cut through the implacable clutter and arrive at the proper answer? As always, the cure for such moral confusion is the Bible. In this case, read Psalm 139:13-16, and Jeremiah 1: 4-5, then make up your own mind and get involved.

GUEST OPINION:



SBC is right to depart BWA

By Ralph Henson, pastor
Arrowood Church, Meridian

their own cultural context. Our basic task is evangelism... that results in indigenous Baptist churches (emphasis mine). Also, according to the SBC site (<http://sbc.net/aboutus/psmissions.asp>), the priority is evangelism which results in churches.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BWA

According to the BWA web site (<http://www.bwanet.org/About%20Us/WhatIsBWA.htm>) its purpose is to **Defend Human Rights**: ...When that right is denied, or is in danger anywhere, the BWA works with governments and other authorities on behalf of Baptists and other oppressed people. Racism and ethnic conflict are evils that must be fought with action and prayer. The BWA has named the first ten years of this new millennium a, "Decade of Racial Injustice." (emphasis BWA's). More is said on the web site about human rights than is said about evangelism.

The driving purpose of the BWA is to help the needy and the politically oppressed. While admirable, it is different from the SBC's purpose, which is to share the Gospel worldwide. While we are not unconcerned about human rights, we are more concerned with human salvation. The BWA emphasizes political and social oppression. We emphasize personal evangelism. What the BWA does with its budget is not wrong; it is just not where we are or who we are.

In 2000 BWA leaders attended a function in Cuba hosted by Fidel Castro. BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz said that Castro, "understands religion can play a significant role in the life of people, in Cuban society and even in helping international relations." Lotz added, "the Cuban people are the ones suffering from the [US economic] boy-

cott." He further urged the BWA to pass a resolution condemning the U.S. embargo against Cuba and calling for its termination. Do we really want to support financially the BWA's political and human rights agenda?

Every Thursday I meet with pastors from different denominations to pray. We are one in the bond of love, but we do not cooperate financially with each other. Yes, we are one in the body of Christ, but we are not the same denomination. At Arrowood Church, we choose to support conventions that are headed our same direction — the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the SBC. The BWA is not headed our way.

The SBC is not antagonistic toward the BWA; we are simply headed in two different directions. The source of our conflict is that each has a different purpose. Neither will ever be satisfied with the other, because our purposes are different.

Billions of people on this planet urgently need to hear the Gospel. Therefore, I urge the SBC to vote in June to withdraw from the BWA, and to use the 420,000 Cooperative Program dollars previously given annually to the BWA to invest in our primary purpose, that of winning people to Jesus.

Miss. Baptists boast Sunday School pioneer

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

First in a series

In Southern Baptist circles, the name Arthur Flake is often uttered with the same reverential awe that students of literature use when they speak of William Shakespeare.

That's because much of the history of the Baptist Sunday School Board refers to the late Mississippi Baptist Arthur Flake as a pioneer — and if vision, courage, and energy qualify him for the title, he certainly fits the bill.

Flake was born in Fayette County, Texas, in 1862. His mother was a South Carolinian and his father a Mississippian. His first job was as a clerk in a dry goods store in Belton, Texas. He spent nine years as a traveling salesman, finally entering the department store business in Winona.

At age 31, Flake attended worship on a Sunday morning at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Meridian. He accepted Christ that evening in his hotel room.

After a year of business in Winona, Flake married Lena Nelson and together raised three daughters.

In 1885, Flake organized Mississippi's first BYPU (Baptist Young People's Union — a forerunner of today's Discipleship Training concept) at First Church, Winona. In 1899, he helped organize the first Mississippi state BYPU and served as president until 1903.

He also served as a volunteer Sunday School superintendent and was so successful that he was elected in 1909 as a field worker for the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville (now LifeWay Christian Resources).

While in Winona, Flake studied his own Sunday School, saw the needs, and developed for himself the practical methods that have since revolutionized Sunday School work.

In those early days, Sunday

School was well established in evangelical churches, but there were few guiding plans for organization and administration.

Flake applied many of the principles he learned in business to the Sunday School in Winona, and was so successful that he became known as a real Sunday School leader in Mississippi.

After becoming a field worker for the Sunday School Board, Flake realized that visiting churches and making speeches about Sunday School did little to improve the work. He realized that his best contribution might be in leading churches to develop and execute Sunday School enlargement campaigns.

When Flake would go to a church, he would lead in taking a census, grading the Sunday School, adding new classes, adjusting the space, and leading in visitation efforts to bring in new people. During this period he also developed his five-step formula for building a Sunday School.

When Flake went to churches upon invitation, it wasn't unusual for the Sunday Schools to double and even triple — and continue growing. Flake's methodology of using enlargement cam-

paigns and the five-point formula became the major method of building Sunday Schools.

While Flake's main work at First Church, Winona, was in Sunday School promotion, he gave much of his time to BYPU.



Flake

promotion. In 1912, at the request of J. M. Frost, executive secretary of the Sunday School Board, Flake took on the responsibility of promoting BYPU work in the territory east of the Mississippi River. His textbook, *Senior BYPU Administration*, served for many years as the standard in the field.

Flake was ever the businessman. In a letter to Frost dated November 28, 1908, Flake wrote from Winona that "the salary [offered by the Sunday School Board] seems to me to be less than I could afford to undertake the work for. I do not believe that I could possibly live on less than \$2500 a year and take care of my life insurance, which I would necessarily have to do... I feel that on a salary of \$2500 a year I could maintain myself well, in addition to which if I had a stenographer, I believe I could do the work of three or four men."

At the invitation of Frost's successor, I. J. Van Ness, Flake was placed in charge of the board's new department of Sunday School Administration in 1920. In this position he did his major life's work. This position — unique because there was nothing like it at that time among other denominations — gave Flake the opportunity to develop and standardize a philosophy and methodology of Sunday School organization and administration. Flake served in that position for 17 years.

Some of the vital actions set in motion by Flake were editing *The Sunday School Builder*; unifying and stabilizing the Six Point Record System; the enlargement

campaign; books and leaflets on Sunday School work; and the Sunday School clinic strategy.

Additionally, he improved and promoted Training Union administration; the Sunday School Standard of Excellence; the church library movement; the weekly officers and teachers meeting; grading and the principle and method of multiplying units — classes and departments; and the associational Sunday School organization.

Of all of Flake's books, the most widely distributed was *Building a Standard Sunday School*. More than any other volume, this book, first published in 1922, has given guidance and motivation for the expansion of Southern Baptist

Record

Sunday School work. The methodology proposed was practical and creative, and is still widely used today.

In an article in *The Sunday School Builder*, October, 1936, William P. Phillips wrote, "He [Flake] remains as one of the most inspiring, contagious, and convincing personalities it has ever been my humble privilege to know. When his own church launched a revival meeting he regularly left the field and went home in order to enrich his own spiritual life and personally lead many souls to Christ."

Flake retired from the Sunday School Board in 1936. He spent his twilight years at his home in Memphis, surrounded by his flowers which he tended with delight. He died in 1952.

Sources: Cooper, Davis: *A Speech that Influenced the South, The Sunday School Builder*, October 1936, Baptist Sunday School Board; *Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists*, Volume 1, 1958, Broadman Press; Phillips, William: *Arthur Flake As I Know Him, The Sunday School Builder*, October 1936, Baptist Sunday School Board; *Letter from Flake to J. M. Frost, Frost's personal papers*, November, 1928.

Looking back

10 years ago

The government of Iraq apparently intends to continue relaxing some religious restrictions long imposed in the country — a move that began shortly after the end of the Gulf War. Christian literature is being published inside the country, and the Jesus film has been twice broadcasted.

20 years ago

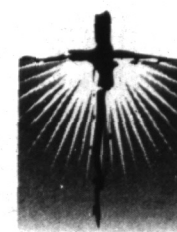
Approximately 8,000 people from Mississippi and surrounding areas witness what for Southern Baptists is high pageantry last week when 12 couples are appointed as foreign missionaries in the Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum in Biloxi.

50 years ago

Herbert Batson, minister of music and education of the Clinton church, accepts the call to First Church, Grenada, to assume the same work in that church, according to pastor John W. Landrum. The Grenada church has one of the most progressive music and education programs in the state.

Crossover planned

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — A wide range of evangelistic events will be reinforced by revival services June 10-12 during Crossover Indianapolis, the annual evangelism emphasis in the host city of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. It's a strategy local leaders believe will go far in helping new believers in Christ to be quickly assimilated into local congregations, while also taking advantage of the local presence of vocational evangelists and pastors from across the country to lead the revivals. Individuals and groups seeking to volunteer for Crossover may sign up directly this year through www.TheBridge.namb.net. North American Mission Board (NAMB) online system for linking volunteers with projects. Others can sign up to pray for Crossover — whether on-site via prayerwalks or from their homes across the country — through www.CrossoverPrayer.org. Crossover has been a part of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting each year since 1989, providing an opportunity for messengers to the convention to participate in evangelistic events around the host city — primarily on the Saturday before the convention. More than 33,000 individuals have been led to faith in Christ through the effort. As in past years, events in the Indianapolis area will include door-to-door evangelistic surveys, about 30 community block parties sponsored by churches, "StreetReach" evangelism teams presenting the Gospel in public areas through entertainment and inner-city evangelism teams sharing Christ on the streets of low-income areas. Prayerwalking teams also are being enlisted to pray for event venues and neighborhoods both before and during Crossover. Several Kindness Explosion ministries also are planned to present a Gospel witness through acts of kindness.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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RCM FOYWY YRGM

WCXV BGZ, PVIOY BRUO

BVEOY, RCM LGSMY VP

XBO RGS BRUO COYXY;

LWX XBO YVC VP ZRC

BRXB CVX KBOSO XV ERT

BGY BORM.

EWDO CGCO: PGXP-
TOGQBX

Clue: P = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke 5:31

AN ARMY DEPLOYED

Across Mississippi we have watched as one unit after another of our National Guard has been called up and deployed to Iraq. Some of our units have been sent to support areas to allow other units to go. Still, they have been called into active duty for a period and often a lengthy period of time. We have also watched as they have returned. Some have returned as faithful, fallen heroes.

Each time I hear on the news that one, two, or three American soldiers have been killed in Iraq, my mind immediately gravitates toward the thought, "Were they Mississippians?" It is not because Mississippi soldiers are in any way better than any other soldier whether from Wisconsin or New Mexico, but, of course, the chances of me knowing them or knowing some of their family is significantly increased if they are from here. They are in some special way "our soldiers!"

On the first Saturday night in April, I was privileged to be at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly with Baptist Student Union leaders and college young people from campuses all across our state. They came from universities, colleges, and community colleges. Many of them were joined by parents and grand-parents as a very special and moving service took place. The two day meeting was referred to by the people in the know as LTC. It is the Leadership Training Conference of the BSU.

At the meeting young people are there who served this year and others who have been chosen to serve on the campuses next year. There were 177 young men and women who are going to spend their summer serving the Lord as missionaries. It was the largest group of summer missionaries ever to be commissioned in Mississippi. To say the least, hundreds and hundreds of college young people and college workers packed into the auditorium at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly grounds. It was an interesting, exciting, high-energy, and spiritually moving time.

Like a unit of a great army, these young people will be deployed at the end of the school year and will be going literally across the nation and around the world to touch lives for Jesus. From Maryland and



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Delaware, from Montana, Oregon and Washington, from Tennessee to Texas, from Canada to Thailand, from Zambia to Wales, from Burkina Faso to Peru, and from China to the District of Columbia, there will be an invasion of love as young people who have heard the call will give their time to go.

It is amazing for these young people recognize that we live in a dangerous world. A world filled with animosity toward faith and toward Americans and a world filled with danger and threats, yet they step forward to say to the Lord, "Here am I, send me!"

I suppose someone could look at them and say how foolish these kids are! But, I think that those thoughts could only be expressed if you do not know them. They are not foolish as much as they are simply faithful. If you could have been there with me and talked to some of them, listened to the confidence of faith in their voices, seen the sparkle of the living Christ in their eyes, and heard of the joy of opportunity for service that is theirs, you would have a totally different opinion of these wonderful young people.

I asked some of the young people, "How did you arrive at a decision to spend your summer serving Christ as a missionary?" Each had a different story that began somewhere with an encounter with Christ. Sometimes it was a story of a radical transformation that Jesus had brought them out of a deep hole of sin and for others it was the constant nudging of the Holy Spirit that came at their quiet time as they started their day with the Lord. None, not one, of the stories began with, "Oh, I just love to travel!" or "I was just looking for something to do!"

Young people today have plenty to do without giving up their time and expending their energy in a place that may tax them to the max! They answer

the call from God and they go in His name and power. Many of these young people are your young people. They come from your homes, your churches, and your communities.

The yellow ribbons scattered all around our state and nation remind us to pray for our soldiers in deployment and to pray for peace to come in the world, in Iraq, and here at home. You and I bear a special responsibility and can become a part of a great opportunity of support, love, and involvement in missions as we remember to pray for and find ways to stay in contact with this army of God - the BSU Summer Missionary Corps. Then when this special assignment for the summer is over and our young

troopers return home, celebrate with them! Listen to them! Encourage them! Affirm them! For so many of them will find that they are literally, intentionally on mission for Jesus, not just for the summer but for a lifetime!

There is one final thought that I feel compelled to share with so many of you. There are 177 of our students going on missions from our colleges and universities. Thousands more will be on mission this summer in special specific assignments where the Lord will use them. Some will travel to other countries, others just across the state line, and still others will serve right at home. They will be on the front line working in Vacation Bible School, helping in a revival, serving on a committee, sharing their witness with someone who needs the Lord, or sharing a testimony of God's goodness before a congregation. For all of you and all of us, may we take the motto of the U.S. Army when they say, "Be all that you can be!" Now, may I add, "Let's be all that we can be for our Lord!"



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

MISSISSIPPI POSITIONS

CASTLEWOODS BAPTIST CHURCH in Brandon, MS is seeking a mature christian individual or couple to make a long-term commitment to serve as youth leader(s) on a bi-vocational basis. Please mail your resume to: 175 Stonecastle Drive, Brandon, MS 39047 or email paula@castlewoodsbaptist.com.

GRANDVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, 900 S. Pearson Road, Pearl, Miss., seeks bi-vocational minister of music. Call (601) 939-4215.

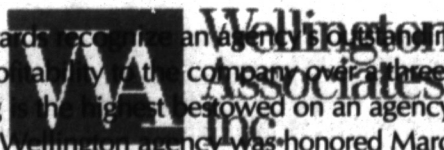
WEST LAUREL BAPTIST CHURCH, is accepting applications for full-time pastor. Masters degree and five (5) years experience preferred. Send resume and letter of interest to: West Laurel Baptist Church, 1400 W. 5th Street, Laurel, MS 39440, attn: Mel Odom, by May 29, 2004.

JACKSON INSURANCE AGENCY HONORED

Fort Wayne, Indiana, March 17, 2004 - Wellington Associates, Inc., based in Jackson, has been named one of Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company's 5-Star agencies.

The annual awards recognize an agency's outstanding production and overall profitability with the company over a three-year period. A 5-Star rating is the highest bestowed on an agency by Brotherhood Mutual. The Wellington agency was honored March 12 during an awards banquet at the company's corporate office in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Walter "Buster" Wellington is principal of the agency, and the top producers are Bill Barham and Mike Brooks.

Founded in 1917, Brotherhood Mutual specialized in insuring churches and related ministries.



BIBLEMAN LIVE
A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Friday, May 21 • 7:00 pm
Ridgecrest Baptist • 7469 Old Canton Rd. • Madison, MS
Tickets: \$7.00 gen. adm. adv. • \$7.50 Money alone
Charge by phone: 800-853-1090 • Online: christianitynow.org • tickets.com
For more information: 801-853-1090 • www.rcbc.org

To print out Bibleman Concert posters go to www.rcbc.org

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 15, 2004

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

LAD/CRUSADER DAY 2004

APRIL 24, 2004

9 A.M.-2 P.M.

CENTRAL HILLS BAPTIST RETREAT, KOSCIUSKO

COST: \$4

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REGISTER EARLY!

DEADLINE: APRIL 19



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**Hazel Morris &
Ron Mumbower**

Patterson Place
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For ministers in churches whose responsibilities include planning church programs for children such as Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Mission Friends, GAs, RAs, Vacation Bible School, Bible Drill, children's music, etc.

- Enjoy fellowship and communication among Mississippi's Ministers to Children
- Continuing education in preschool and children's ministry.
- This year's conference will emphasize ministering to preschoolers, children, and their families.

We are fortunate to have Hazel Morris, retired Childhood Education professor from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Ron Mumbower, leader of the Christian Counseling Ministry of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi, as our featured speakers and resource people for this retreat.

For more info: contact Don Hicks at 601-292-3287 or 1-800-748-1651, or by E-mail at dhicks@mbcb.org.

Leaders

H.B. London, Jr. - vice president of Ministry Outreach/Pastoral Ministries for Focus on the Family.

Lew King - minister of music at FBC, Byram

Child Care

Supervised care will be made available for preschoolers, children and youth.

Reservation and Registration

- Participation is unlimited, but **the on-site housing is limited to the first hundred (100) couples who register** for this retreat. This number is based on the available private accommodations at Gulfshore.
- Registration must be made with Gulfshore.

Cost

2 nights lodging and 6 meals:

- **Adults:** \$97.75 per person
- **Ages 12 & up:** \$56.55 per person
- **Ages 2-11:** \$33.28 per person
- **Age 2 and under:** no cost

There is no conference fee.

Gulfshore accepts VISA and MasterCard.

Pastor and Wife Retreat



For more info, contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305.

State Bible Drill - 2004



STATE BIBLE DRILLS 2004

Date	Location	Registration	Drills Begin
TUESDAY April 13	Brookhaven, FBC Greenwood, FBC	2-4:30 p.m. 2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m.
THURSDAY April 15	Tupelo, Harrisburg Tupelo, FBC	2-4:30 p.m. 2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m.
FRIDAY April 16	Starkville, FBC Columbus, FBC	2-4:30 p.m. 2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m.
SATURDAY April 17	Madison, Ridgecrest BC Clinton, FBC	8:30-noon 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.	9 a.m. 9 a.m.
MONDAY April 19	Hattiesburg, Temple BC (west campus) Meridian, FBC	2-4:30 p.m. 2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m.
TUESDAY April 20	Laurel, Salem Heights BC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
THURSDAY April 22	Gulfport, FBC Batesville, FBC	2-4:30 p.m. 2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m.
SATURDAY April 24	Selection Tournaments Jackson, Alta Woods BC Youth Speakers Tournament Youth Junior High Tournament Scholarship Tournament	9:30-9:45 a.m. 12:15-1 p.m. 1:30-1:45 p.m.	10 a.m. 1 p.m. 2 p.m.

Call your Baptist associational office for the date and location for your Associational Drill.

CHURCH PAKS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE DISCIPLESHIP & FAMILY MINISTRY DEPARTMENT.

CALL 1-800-748-1651 IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR CHURCH PAK.

Mississippi FamilyFEST Mission Team 2004 July 9-16, 2004

Omaha, Nebraska – INDIAN RESERVATION

- Block Parties
- Health Fairs
- Sports Clinics
- Servant Evangelism (hair cuts, oil changes, and more)
- Light Construction
- Cleaning/Repairs
- Phone Survey for New Church Starts
- Prayerwalking
- Backyard Bible Clubs

GROUP RATES

- _ Quad Occupancy \$298 per person
- _ Triple Occupancy \$345 per person
- _ Double Occupancy \$435 per person

FAMILY RATES

- _ \$830 for 2 Family Members
- _ \$980 for 3 Family Members
- _ \$1140 for 4 Family Members

BAPTIST NURSING FELLOWSHIP MEMBERSHIP RATE _ \$335 per person

This project is a ministry of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to and department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. For more information, please contact Tammy Anderson at 800.748.1651, Ext. 323, or tanderson@mbcb.org.

CONTACT PERSON: _____

Home(____) _____ Work(____) _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

Church membership _____ City _____ Association _____

Shirt Size _____

Please make check payable to Mississippi WMU and memo to "FamilyFEST"

Mail by **May 14, 2004**, to

Mississippi WMU, FamilyFEST 2004

P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

FAMILY WEEK

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Mon., July 5 – Thurs., July 8

"Kingdom Families: Making a Difference"

SPECIAL GUESTS:

- Brian Neal & Band, Monticello
- Tim Morrison, Monticello
- Chalk Art/Music
- FBC, DeRidder, La., Puppets/Mime/Clowns

EVENTS:

- Ice Cream/Watermelon Fellowship
- Night Swimming
- Bar-b-que cookout
- Afternoons will be FREE

CONFERENCES:

PRESCHOOLER/CHILDREN

- Team Kids

TEENAGERS

- Mini Centrifuge
- Craig Brown, Jackson
- Colonial Heights BC, Jackson
- Minister of Students

ADULT CONFERENCES

- Single Parenting
James Haynes, FBC, Biloxi
- Couples
Dwight and Kay Faulkenberry
Philadelphia (Pathway Ministries)
- "Love Languages of God"
Tom Prather, MBCB

Family Week Registration

IMPORTANT: A \$50 deposit per person/ \$100 per family is required to reserve a spot.

MAIL TO: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571 (Visa/MasterCard are accepted.) For more information call 228-452-7261. Make checks payable to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

Name of Adults _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Children's names/birthdays _____

Church _____ Association _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

(Note: No Skateboards or roller-blades)

"A" Unit

- Adult: \$138.25 (1 or 2)
- Youth: \$138.25 (12 yrs. – 12th grade)
- Child: \$71.88 (2-11 yrs.)

"C" Unit

- \$122.50 (4 or more)
- \$76.00 (12 yrs. – 12th grade)
- \$48.25 (2-11 yrs.)

Sunday School Directors' Workshops

Monday, June 7
38th Ave. Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

Tuesday, June 8
Belden Baptist Church, Tupelo

6:30-8:30 p.m.



Both of these conferences will be led by Wayne Etheridge, a Sunday School/FAITH specialist from LifeWay Church Resources in Nashville. He served as a Sunday School director, minister of education, and pastor before going to Nashville to serve in the Sunday School Department. Wayne's specialties are in the area of organizing and growing a Sunday School.

Each church represented will receive a copy of

A Coach's Guide to Sunday School: A Sunday School Director's Manual.

Additional Sunday School Director Training events:

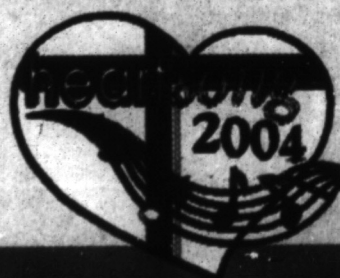
- May 18 FBC, Starkville
- May 18 Emmanuel BC, Grenada
- May 24 FBC, Gulfport
- May 24 Easthaven BC, Brookhaven
- May 25 Northcrest BC, Meridian
- May 25 Highland Colony BC, Ridgeland
- June 2 North Oxford BC, Oxford

Times in all locations: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Each church represented will receive training in the use of the Coach's Guide for Sunday School. These conferences will be led by the Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

For more info, call the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3291.

July 1-5 Gulfshore Baptist Assembly



Choral Director
Suzanne Cain
Mt. Zion BC
Columbus



Camp Pastor
Jim Cain
Mt. Zion BC
Columbus



The music and worship arts camp for

7-12th grades

For more info, contact the Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3267

Choral Singing
Signing
Drama
Handbells
Playing Instruments
Voice
Keyboard
Guitar
Part-singing
Interpretive
Movement

SuperSummer

MISSISSIPPI
July 12-16, 2004

featuring

What is Super Summer?



Fred D. Lynch
Worship Leader



Chris Davis
Music Leader

Super Summer is:

- twenty hours of discipleship / evangelism training
- a week of challenge for students to learn how to "penetrate their culture"
- creative, interactive and incredible
- a "don't miss" opportunity
- leadership ... envisioning how your choices and actions today may influence you tomorrow

Guidelines for all students

1. Demonstrates leadership qualities and is a growing Christian.
2. Faithful involvement in worship, Sunday School, and Wednesday night youth activities.
3. Complete at least one level of a discipleship study (i.e. DiscipleGroup, DiscipleNow...).
4. Memorized a minimum of 10 scripture verses relating to discipleship, evangelism, or a disciple study.
5. Share their personal testimony with the youth group.
6. Share the Gospel with at least one person this year.
7. Completed at least the 8th grade in 2004, but not yet in college.
8. Agree to attend all SS sessions.
9. Journal how you are growing in your walk with Christ (i.e. prayer, scripture memorization, struggles, joys, etc.).
10. First year students: you must be involved in a "small group" study or accountability group prior to Super Summer.
11. Second year students: express in 100 words or less your level of commitment to Christ and how you are involved in leadership in your church and community. Please give to your youth minister.

If you have any questions about these guidelines, please give us a call, and we will try to help you in any way that we can. Super Summer is an incredible experience, and we want to do all we can to keep that standard high. These guidelines help in many ways. Thanks for your attention to the details of these guidelines.

TO REQUEST A REGISTRATION PACKET

Call us at 1-800-748-1651, ext.283, or E-mail us at redwards@mbcb.org

Pray this day for...

April 16 - May 6, 2004

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone (601) 292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1 (800) 787-7729 (PRAY)

"Every one of us would confess that we believe in prayer, yet how many of us truly believe in the power of prayer?"

"The Kneeling Christian" by an Unknown Christian

For: (1) Cooperative Program Day; (2) Monty J. Hale, Jefferson City, Mo., is the leadership development specialist for the Missouri Baptist Convention. Pray that God would continue to raise up next level leaders to take the challenge of reaching the 3.8 million lost people in Missouri.

For: (1) Life Commitment Sunday; (2) Those working among the English-speaking community in Brasilia, Brazil's capital. A missionary writes: "A surprising number of people, foreigners and Brazilians, come to us to ask how to know God. It's exciting and humbling to lead people to Christ and reap where we didn't sow."

For: (1) Edwina Robinson Special Day Offering; (2) Christian Home Week; (3) Pat Pope, Cincinnati, Ohio, is a MSC missionary for Northern Kentucky Association's ministry at Turfway Race Track in Florence, Ky. Pray that they can share the gospel in the community center for track workers, jockeys, and their families.

For: (1) G.R.O.W. Conference, Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian (SS); (2) Bible Drills, Temple BC (West), Hattiesburg FBC, Meridian (D&FM); (3) State Ministry Assistants Conference, Camp Garaywa, Clinton; 10 a.m., 19th-3 p.m., 20th (P/LD).

For: (1) Preaching/Worship Conference, Trinity BC, Southaven (P/LD); (2) Area 4 F.O.C.U.S. Groups, TBA (WMU); (3) FAITH Clinic for Mississippi, Colonial Heights BC, Jackson (Life Way); (3) Pray for missionaries Ron and Lisa Jones as they work with nationals in France.

For: (1) Area 2 F.O.C.U.S. Groups, (WMU); (2) In February, the USA's travel restrictions with in Libya were lifted after 23 years! This will likely have a positive bearing on sharing the Good News in Libya. Pray for all who are planning to travel there, that Christ's love will be foremost in their reasons for going.

For: (1) Bible Drills, Salem Heights BC, Laurel, 2:30-4:30 p.m. (D&FM); (2) G.R.O.W. Conference, FBC, Biloxi, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (SS); (3) Pray that NAMB will be successful in getting a million people to pray for the spiritual awakening of our nation.

For: (1) Area 3 F.O.C.U.S. Groups, (WMU); (2) Preaching Worship Conference, FBC, Brookhaven (P/LD); (3) Grandparenting Seminars, Northcrest BC, Meridian (D&FM); (4) Pray for President Azali Assoumani of Comoros (Indian Ocean islands, between Mozambique and Madagascar).

For: (1) State Senior Adult Choir Festival, FBC, Brandon (CM); (2) Bill Bullington, the Regional Leader for West Africa, has announced his upcoming retirement. Give thanks for Bill and Evelyn's many years of missionary service. Pray for God's guidance as the IMB seeks the next Regional Leader for West Africa.

For: (1) Secretaries Day; (2) George Adams is a chaplain overseas and is deployed on an amphibious assault ship. Pray for the 2,800 naval personnel and Marines on board. Pray for unity, spiritual renewal, and growth for Christians on board and for many to turn to Jesus.

Pray for all the new representatives from churches that will be going to Peru over the next few months on "vision trips" as they seek God's will concerning their church's involvement with the unreached people groups of southern Peru and Bolivia.

For: (1) Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS; (2) Pray for the seven small Baptist churches and pastors in Mwanza, Tanzania. Pray that, along with missionaries Charles and Cheri Orange, they will know how best to reach the millions of lost in this urban area.

For: (1) Bible Drills, FBC, Gulfport; FBC, Batesville, 2:30-4:30 p.m. (D&FM); (2) State Literacy Missions Training, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 22nd-24th (WMU); (3) Campers on Mission, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, 7 p.m., 22nd-9:30 a.m., 25th (MM)

Pray for Mr. F., a new believer in Morocco who has been fired from his job with a foreign owned business. His wife has not yet accepted Christ, and she is having depression. Pray that God will use her depression as a way to reveal a Comforter that will never leave her.

For: (1) Preschool/Children Ministers Retreat, Patterson Place, Camp Garaywa, Clinton; (2) Please keep praying for the many missionaries who serve in support roles throughout Eastern Africa. Ask God to give them special grace and strength as they work faithfully at very demanding jobs.

For: (1) Bible Drills, FBC, Columbus, FBC, Starkville, 2:30-4:30 p.m. (D&FM); (2) Young Musicians Adjudication, FBC, Clinton, 7-9 p.m. (CM); (3) Please pray today for President Hu Jintao of China (eastern and central Asia).

For: (1) State Handbell Festival, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, 23rd-24th (CM); (2) Chaplains Association Spring Retreat, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, 23rd-24th (CPD); (3) Pray that our pastors and churches will be protected from false doctrines.

For: (1) National Missionary Parents' Fellowship Retreat, April 30-May 1, Shocco Springs, Talladega, Ala. (WMU); (2) Witnessing Through Media, FBC, Jackson, 30th-1st (CS); (3) State Handbell Festival, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, 30th-1st (CM).

For: (1) Young Musicians Festival, Mississippi College, Clinton, 8:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m. (CM); (2) Mississippi Missionary Fellowship, Patterson Place, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 8:30 a.m.-noon (WMU); (3) Bible Drills, Ridgecrest BC, Madison; FBC, Clinton, 9 a.m.-noon (D&FM).

For: (1) Lad/Crusader Day, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (MM); (2) Jr. High Tournament /Scholarship Tournament, Alta Woods BC, Jackson, noon-3 p.m. (D&FM); (2) Speaker's Tournament, Alta Woods BC, Jackson, 10 a.m.-noon (D&FM).

As the movie, "The Passion of the Christ," opens in venues across the world, pray that many Muslims will view the film and come to understand that Jesus Christ did die on the cross, and that today He lives. Pray that many Muslims will seek and find the eternal life Christ gives!

2004 Preaching & Worship Conference

Preaching from the New Testament

Ken Hemphill



Ken Hemphill is National Strategist for Empowering Kingdom Growth of the Southern Baptist Convention. He is author of Revitalizing the Sunday Morning Dinosaur, The Antioch Effect, The Bonsai Theory of Church Growth and numerous others. A frequent contributor to articles and chapters in collections of other religious resources, he is also a nationally known lecturer.

Blake Scafidel



Blake Scafidel has been in full-time music ministry for 15 years and is currently serving as the minister of music and youth at FBC, Bude. He and his wife Carrene have been married 14 years. They have three children, and one dog.

Trinity Baptist Church
Southaven, Monday, April 26

First Baptist Church
Brookhaven, Tuesday, April 27

For more info, call the
Pastor/Leadership
Development Department
at 1-800-748-1651 or
1-601-292-3305

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD

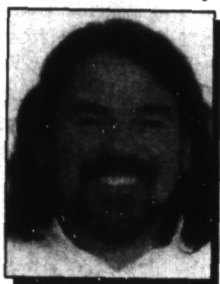


Newton

Gracewood Church, Southaven, will hold the Billingsley Youth Conference April 30-May 1 featuring youth evangelist Ed Newton with Steps of Faith Ministry, music evangelist Kevin Derryberry, and The King's Band. Times are Friday from 6-8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m.-noon, 2-4 p.m., and Christian and Family Day, Desoto Athletic Club, from 6-8 p.m. Registration is \$10.

Kermit McGregor has been called as transitional pastor by First Church, Starkville, effective

April 1. He has served churches in Mendenhall, Clinton, Hattiesburg, Winona, and Bruce. McGregor served with The Baptist Children's Village from 1985-1989.



Derryberry

Cruger Church, Cruger will sponsor Karen Peck and New River in concert April 18 at 6 p.m. in the Cruger/Tchula Gym. A love offering will be received. For more information, call (662) 453-0009.

Flowood Church, Flowood, will hold a gold tournament at Willow Creek April 24 beginning at 8 a.m. The registration deadline is 7:30 a.m. The cost is \$50 per person and \$200 per team with proceeds to go towards the mission construction trip

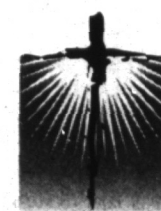


Karen Peck and New River

for the Flowood Church, Brotherhood Association. For more information, call (601) 832-2606 or (601) 992-6464.

Hill Chapel Missionary Church, Bolton, will hold the pastor's installation of Barron Banks April 18 at 3 p.m. Emmett C. Burns, Rising Sun First Church, Baltimore, Md., will be the guest minister. For more information, call (601) 866-7995.

The Providentials Quartet will lead worship at First Church Lyman, Gulfport, April 25 at 10:45 a.m. For more information call, (228) 832-2159. A love offering will be received.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

HOMEcoming & REVIVAL DATES

Society Hill, Oakvale: Revival April 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Dennis Campbell, evangelist; Billy Paul Cooper, music; Tommy Broom, pastor.

Yates, pastor; for more information, call (662) 746-2540.

Big Level, Wiggins: Revival April 18-21; Argile Smith, preaching; Hubert Greer, music; David Perry, pastor.

Park Haven, Laurel: Revival April 18-20; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. and Tues., 7 p.m.; David Grumbach, speaking; for more information, call (601) 425-2150 or (601) 425-0452.

Utica, Utica: 175th Anniversary April 25; worship, 10:30 a.m.; dinner on the grounds will follow; Ben James, pastor, and former pastors, speakers; Judy Walker and choir, music; Mary Landin will present a brief history; all are welcome.

Concord, Yazoo City: Revival April 18-21; Sunday, worship at 11 a.m., lunch at noon, and afternoon worship will follow; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; David Michel, MCB, speaking; Tommy and Carol Joy Sparkman, music; James F.

New Sight, Brookhaven: Homecoming and Revival May 2-7; Sunday, 9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m., lunch will follow, and Chosen in concert at 1 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; David Anderson, Maple

Cane, Cottageville, S.C., guest preacher; Alex Craft, Clark-Venable, Decatur, guest music minister; Steve White, pastor.

Ecu, Ecu: Revival April 18-21; Sunday 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Larry Robertson, Hildale, Clarksville, Tenn., evangelist; Billy Joe Kennedy, Hopewell, Savannah, Tenn., music; Barry Littlefield, pastor.

Tuscola, Leake: Revival April 25-28; Sunday, 11 a.m., a covered dish lunch will be served, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kyle Cannon, preaching; Mike Donovan, music; Smith Sanders, pastor.

Indian Springs, Jones: Homecoming May 2; 150th Anniversary; worship, 10:30 a.m.; lunch will be served with afternoon worship to follow; all are welcome.

First, Pearl: Real Life Revival April 18; Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; nightly at 6:30 p.m.; childcare is available; Randy Lewman, pastor.

First, Houka: Revival April 25-28; Sunday, 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Sammy Nuckolls, speaking; Melinda Kopp, music; David Blackwell, pastor.

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Brandon, MS**

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Door Prize awarded at conclusion**

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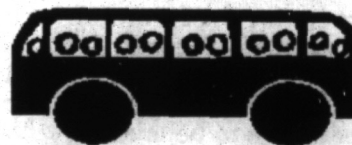
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APRIL 25 - 28, 2004

**SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 11:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.
MONDAY, APRIL 26 - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 7:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 5:30 P.M. - YOUTH NIGHT**

**DR. PAUL BLANCHARD, EVANGELIST
BRO. MARK THOMPSON, MUSIC
PASTOR AT NEW HOPE IS REV. TIM PARKER**



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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Church Builder

Matthew 16:13-19; Ephesians 2:17-22

By Patsy Foster

One night as my Mother was praying for a lost loved one, the word, "Barjona," came to her mind. She thought it strange that it should appear in the middle of her prayer so she got her Bible and looked it up. It is found in Matthew 16 after Jesus asked his disciples, who do you say that I am, and Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Jesus responded, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in Heaven." God very clearly spoke to my Mother's heart to pray that the Father would reveal Jesus to the loved one she was praying for.

Not all, however, have received the revelation that

Jesus is the Son of God. In our Gospel-saturated nation, the debate still rages over who He is.

Documentaries are being filmed from almost every point of view, and still the question remains unanswered by many. Who is this Jesus? Peter's confession must have gladdened His heart, for Jesus said to him, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (verse 18). Matthew Henry said in his commentary that Christ had named him Peter because of his stability or firmness in professing the truth and that "nothing can be more wrong than to suppose that Christ meant the person of Peter was the rock. Without



Foster

doubt Christ Himself is the Rock, the tried foundation of the church; and woe to him that attempts to lay any other!"

Every building has a builder and it's essential that the builder, have a plan, or else how will the house fit together? The Father had a plan that Jesus would come and purchase our peace with the blood of His cross. This plan gives us access to God by His Spirit. Now we are no longer strangers to God and alienated from Him, but we're fellow citizens with all of the saints. We, who were once separated from God by our sins, are now accepted in the beloved.

As the builder executes his plan, the most important part is laid first the foundation. It is the strength of the building. As children, we sang about the wise man who built his house upon the rock, and his house stood firm when the rains and

floods came. The foolish man, however, built his house upon the sand. The rains and the floods destroyed his house. Our Foundation has never eroded and never will. Ephesians 2:20 says that the church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone. Christ is building the structure of His church, fitting us together into a Holy temple. Just as a door must be put into a structure to be useful, so we need to be within the structure of a local church that Christ might develop us. Rick Warren writes, "For the organs of your body to fulfill their purpose, they must be connected to your body. The same is true for you as a part of Christ's Body. The church is so significant that Jesus died on the cross for it." Would you say to Him, "I love you, Jesus, but I don't like your church?" May God show us that we are put together in the church of the Living God, that we "may stand fast in one spirit, with

one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel" (Philippians 1:27).

My grandmother loved going to church and serving God. When she was confined to a nursing home because of a severe stroke, God continued to use her, even though she could no longer speak clearly. Perhaps you are in similar circumstances and are no longer able to attend church though you yearn to. Please realize that you are still a part of the church and that you are important to the Lord and His work. Perhaps you have extra time to pray for your church, for revival in our nation, or for the families in your neighborhood. What a blessing you could be! If you're one who is still able to attend church services, rejoice and be faithful. Serve the Lord with gladness! Remember you are a part of a building that was purchased at a very high cost, a building that is eternal and indestructible.

Foster is member of Murphy Creek Church, Louisville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Witness Boldly

II Timothy 1:4-18

By Bobby McKay

Have you ever heard of the technique called word association? It is where someone says a word and you reply with the first word that comes to mind. For example, if I say terrorism, Osama Bin Laden probably comes to mind. Now that you know where I am coming from let's try another one. The word is witness. What came to mind? It is a pretty safe assumption that I am not the only one thinking this name. The name is Grady Crowell. Crowell is the Associational Missions Director for Clarke Association.

While serving as pastor of a church outside of Greenwood my dad had Crowell to come and lead in summer revival services. What Crowell must have misunderstood was he

thought daddy had asked him to revive the whole town of around 20,000 people!

I remember it like it was yesterday. Everywhere we went, Bro. Grady would hand out tracts on how to be saved. Very few, if any, passed him on the street, ate in the same restaurant, shopped for moon pies, or even went to the restroom without having the gospel literally handed to them.

Now the point I wanted to make is twofold. First of all, isn't it great to know that we have workers for the Kingdom like Bro. Grady? Secondly, I want you to know that particular revival was almost 20 years ago. I have to believe the main reason the memory of that week is so fresh in my mind is that we lack a true witnessing force that should be



McKay

evident in each of our lives. When we see someone actually doing what they are supposed to do as a Christian it amazes us. The sad part is that we either don't realize or don't care that we are all called to witness boldly for our Lord and Savior.

In our lesson this week we see the Apostle Paul open up his second letter to Timothy with two simple reminders when it comes to witnessing.

I. NEVER BACK UP (1:4-7)

It has been said before that God doesn't want nor does he need any undercover agents. Now I realize some of our international missionaries live in constant danger. They sometimes cannot even tell their closest family members where they are located or what their specific ministry may detail. What I am referring to are those of us that are in the good ole U.S.A. where there is an extremely small threat of persecution for your faith com-

pared to other countries.

Verse seven is one of the most important verses in this entire book. It reads, "For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment" (HCSB). I don't know how the text or the lesson could be any easier to comprehend. When you got saved, God drafted you into His army. As His soldier your orders are to carry out the commands of the Father. The number one mandate he has given you and me is to share the Gospel with every man, woman, and child in our communities.

It doesn't matter if you are reading this in Jackson or Jumpertown, Batesville or Bay St. Louis, there are people in your town that are going to hell everyday and we are responding like we don't even care. Don't back up! When you share the Gospel, you share the news of the only way to salvation: Jesus.

II. NEVER GIVE UP (1:8-18)

Relentless is the word that comes to mind in this passage.

There are too many Christians that give up too easily when someone rejects the message of salvation. In verse eight it tells us to rely on the power of God. The term "soul-winner" has never set well with me. No pastor, evangelist, or Sunday School teacher could ever win any soul. I have a real concern with pastors that act like they saved someone. Jesus is the only one that can save. While He doesn't need our help, isn't it great to know that He still uses sinners such as you and me?

Verse 12 is a wonderful verse for us to look closely at. Many scholars feel that Paul is saying here that God is able to keep his soul secure, bless his ministry, and further the message of Christ. While we should constantly be in a mindset of witnessing, we should never forget that God is much bigger than we are and He is always at work in this world. In the words of Bro. Grady, "REALLY!"

McKay is pastor of Spring Hill Church, Waterford.

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Dr. Bill Causey, Interm Executive Director

P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
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A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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The Passion regains top rank during Easter

FAYETTEVILLE, Ga. (BP) — In the first month after its Feb. 25 release, Mel Gibson's *The Passion of The Christ* motion picture vaulted to number one at the box office, generating an estimated \$305 million in domestic

when they don't come from a church background, such as the customer who asked, "What's a New Testament?"

• After learning a multiplex cinema in his area didn't plan to screen the movie, a bookstore owner in New Boston, Ohio, persuaded 65 area churches to help sell tickets. The churches also helped pay for two half-page advertisements in the Portsmouth Times. Jeff Dunn, who runs Praises bookstore, said the effort resulted in the sale of 6,400 tickets.

Dunn arranged for local pastors to present an evangelistic message after each showing, with eight professions of faith in Christ recorded the first week. "In my lifetime, this is the greatest evangelistic opportunity I've had to affect my community," said Dunn.

Alvin Reid, an evangelism professor at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., said a seminary graduate who pastors in Austin, Texas, e-mailed him to say that 59 people had accepted Christ after the premiere. In addition, many students on Southeastern's North Carolina campus have distributed flyers about the film door-to-door. They also have taken friends to see it, with some of them later praying to accept Christ.

The most significant place in America for evangelism in late February and early March, Reid noted, was a movie theater — not a church building.

Reid said he had recently studied the Book of Acts and noticed that the Apostle Paul left the synagogue in Ephesus because of Jewish opposition and went to the hall at Tryannus. Ultimately, Paul remained there for two years and all of Asia heard the Gospel.

"So he went to a secular hall and got a much greater response," Reid said. "We're seeing in the *Passion of the Christ* exactly what Paul saw in the New Testament."

Reid emphasized that church attendance is important, since the Book of Hebrews directs Christians to regularly meet with each other. However, the professor said too many believers have lost sight of the need to reason with others in the culture during their daily lives.

"I think there's a tremendous message in [the movie's success] for the church," Reid said. "It demonstrates to me we think so much about our local church on Sunday, but we ought to start thinking about evangelism outside the church building a little more."

Avant has encountered negative comments that, for him, show that God's people often may be the greatest opponents of revival. "I just did a radio show about *The Passion* and pointed out every time in history God begins to move the biggest block is God's people," he said. "The problem is in the church."

Among the skepticism Avant has heard expressed is that the film may violate the Second Commandment against

worshipping idols. Too often, Avant said Christians try to put clamps on revival, isolate it, or isolate themselves from it, as shown by this kind of reaction.

"Every one of them ought to be jumping to the forefront to say, 'How does the church join in what God is doing in bringing the cross of Christ to the center of attention in the world?'" the pastor said. "If instead, we begin debating on whether a picture on a movie screen is a graven image, I think God's going to move on and find somebody who will join Him in what He's doing."

Avant said twenty years from now, he doesn't want to look back and wish he had spoken up about opportunities the movie presented the church instead of remaining silent as critics nipped.

Avant noted that he sees cause for optimism: "It seems to me there's a far greater percentage of our churches who are in tune with the possibilities that are in front of us now," he said. "So I'm hopeful."



Scene from Mel Gibson's blockbuster movie, *The Passion of the Christ*

ticket sales and \$32 million overseas, according to an industry website, boxofficemojo.com.

Other new releases eventually pushed the movie down the list and took the number one spot, but just-announced theater attendance from the Easter weekend shows that *The Passion of the Christ* is on top again.

What excites John Avant, though, isn't the numbers of people going to see the movie but those who are winding up at New Hope Church in Fayetteville, Ga., just south of Atlanta. Average attendance has risen by 12% in recent weeks, which Avant, the church's pastor, attributes to the interest stimulated by the film.

"A movie has the world focused on the cross," Avant said. "We're up 300 people over last year and a whole lot of that is people coming, seeking to know more [about Christ]."

Such reports are becoming commonplace. For example:

• In eastern Pennsylvania, the owner of a Christian bookstore said he sees several new customers each day wanting Bibles after seeing the movie. Joe Hackman, the owner of Hackman's Bible Bookstore in Whitehall, Pa., said he can tell

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